



Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce
In **SUPPORT** of
SB 308—Environment-Statewide Green Business Certification Program

*Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 2, 2022*

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 550 businesses located throughout the Greater Bethesda area and beyond. On behalf of these members, we strongly support SB 308—Environment-Statewide Green Business Certification Program.

SB 308 requires the Department of the Environment (MDE) to establish and administer a statewide green business certification program to recognize businesses operating in a manner that reduces their environmental footprint and to provide consumers with information on how to identify those businesses. A similar program was established in Montgomery County several years ago. This program aims to not only reward businesses for their environmental leadership, but it also seeks to spark the adoption of broader sustainable best practices throughout the County. Not only do we appreciate that this proposed legislation builds on expanding an already-existing, successful programs, but we also appreciate the “carrot” approach of this voluntary program designed to encourage businesses to take steps to reduce their ecological footprint.

For these reasons, we support HB 308 and urge a favorable vote.